

AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for populating a database, the method comprising:

providing a database having a schema, wherein the schema defines tables in a database as well as fields in each table, relationships between fields and tables, and dependencies among tables;

inferring from the schema dependencies among a fact table and related dimension tables, wherein a dependency comprises a rule for the database, enforced by a database management system, that a first record in a first table must exist in the database before a second record in a second table may be inserted in the database, further comprising:

selecting from metadata describing a schema for the database expressions of dependencies; and

inserting the expressions of dependencies into a dependency list; and

inserting, in accordance with the dependencies, rows of data into the fact table and rows of data into the dimension tables.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein inserting rows of data further comprises:

determining whether related dimension data exists for each foreign key in each row of data inserted into the fact table; and

for each foreign key for which related dimension data does not exist, inserting a row of dimension data into a dimension table related to the fact table through the foreign key.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein inserting rows of data further comprises:

determining whether related dimension data exists for each foreign key in each row of data inserted into a first dimension table; and

for each foreign key for which related dimension data does not exist, inserting a row of dimension data into a second dimension table related to the first dimension table through the foreign key.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein inserting rows of data further comprises:

reading the rows of data from a first database, the first database comprising dependencies among tables in the database; and

inserting rows of data into a second database, the second database comprising at least the same dependencies as in the first database.

6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently) A system for populating a database, the system comprising:

means for providing a database having a schema, wherein the schema defines tables in a database as well as fields in each table, relationships between fields and tables, and dependencies among tables;

means for inferring from the schema dependencies among a fact table and related dimension tables, wherein a dependency comprises a rule for the database, enforced by a database management system, that a first record in a first table must exist in the database before a second record in a second table may be inserted in the database, further comprising:

means for selecting from metadata describing a schema for the database expressions of dependencies; and

means for inserting the expressions of dependencies into a dependency list; and

means for inserting, in accordance with the dependencies, rows of data into the fact table and rows of data into the dimension tables.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein means for inserting rows of data further comprises:

means for determining whether related dimension data exists for each foreign key in each row of data inserted into the fact table; and

for each foreign key for which related dimension data does not exist, means for inserting a row of dimension data into a dimension table related to the fact table through the foreign key.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein means for inserting rows of data further comprises:

means for determining whether related dimension data exists for each foreign key in each row of data inserted into a first dimension table; and

for each foreign key for which related dimension data does not exist, means for inserting a row of dimension data into a second dimension table related to the first dimension table through the foreign key.

11. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein means for inserting rows of data further comprises:

means for reading the rows of data from a first database, the first database comprising dependencies among tables in the database; and

means for inserting rows of data into a second database, the second database comprising at least the same dependencies as in the first database.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for populating a database, the computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for providing a database having a schema, wherein the schema defines tables in a database as well as fields in each table, relationships between fields and tables, and dependencies among tables;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for inferring from the schema dependencies among a fact table and related dimension tables, wherein a dependency comprises a rule for the database, enforced by a database management system, that a first record in a first table must exist in the database before a second record in a second table may be inserted in the database, further comprising:

means, recorded on the recording medium, for selecting from metadata describing a schema for the database expressions of dependencies; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for inserting the expressions of dependencies into a dependency list; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for inserting, in accordance with the dependencies, rows of data into the fact table and rows of data into the dimension tables.

14. (Cancelled)
15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means for inserting rows of data further comprises:

means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining whether related dimension data exists for each foreign key in each row of data inserted into the fact table; and

for each foreign key for which related dimension data does not exist, means, recorded on the recording medium, for inserting a row of dimension data into a dimension table related to the fact table through the foreign key.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means for inserting rows of data further comprises:

means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining whether related dimension data exists for each foreign key in each row of data inserted into a first dimension table; and

for each foreign key for which related dimension data does not exist, means, recorded on the recording medium, for inserting a row of dimension data into a second dimension table related to the first dimension table through the foreign key.

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means for inserting rows of data further comprises:

means, recorded on the recording medium, for reading the rows of data from a first database, the first database comprising dependencies among tables in the database; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for inserting rows of data into a second database, the second database comprising at least the same dependencies as in the first database.

18. (Cancelled)